Around the World

Caracas Tension Grows As Vote Count Goes on

CARACAS—Tension in this capital grew apace with the vote count yesterday as Venezuelans learned that a third day would pass with little chance of learning whom they elected president last Sunday.

Until today, the official vote count showed Social Christian (COPEI) candidate Rafael Caldera maintaining a margin of about 3 per cent over Gonzalo Barrios of the ruling Democratic Action Party.

But during the night that narrow gap began to close. Now, with nearly two-thirds of the votes counted, Caldera leads by little more than 1 per cent—675,000 votes to 645,000 out of a total of nearly 4 million cast.

If this trend continues, the lead could shift to Barrios. Observers are very concerned that mass violence could come either with that shift or with the announcement of the final vote—now expected on Thursday.